

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /047 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN DWFIGGINS:NAB
APPROVED BY ARA JBUSHNELL
ARA:SASHELTON
ARA/CEN, EHICKS
OES/PEN/EN:JBLANCHARD
EB/ORF/TRP:DROSS
LA/CEN,BLUKEN
DS/AGR/CP:FVWHITTEMORE
EPA:JTHOMPSON

-----014269 141547Z /46

P 141522Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

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FOR AMBASSADOR JARAMILLO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ECEM, ECON, ECSM, HO

SUBJECT: FUNGICIDE CONTROL OF BLACK SIGATOKA

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 68522 (B) TEGUCIGALPA 1618

1. AT STATE DEPT. REQUEST, DR. FRED W. WHITTEMORE, PEST
MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST IN A.I.D. DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT
BUREAU, AGRICULTURE OFFICE, CROP PRODUCTION DIVISION,
PLANS TO VISIT HONDURAS THURSDAY, APRIL 27.
DR. WHITTEMORE WILL ARRIVE AT 7:30 A.M. ON SAHSA FLIGHT
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414 FROM MANAGUA AND DEPART AT 4:50 P.M. ON SAHSA FLIGHT
950 TO GUATEMALA. DR. WHITTEMORE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED
BY ANOTHER PEST MANAGEMENT EXPERT, DR. RAY SMITH,
FROM UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (BERKELEY).

2. WHILE PRINCIPAL USG RESPONSIBILITY IS TO PROTECT
HEALTH OF U.S. CONSUMERS OF AFFECTED FRUIT, USG ALSO WISHES

TO TAKE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNT OF GOVT. OF HONDURAS
CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN REFTEL B. PURPOSE OF VISIT BY
U.S. TECHNICAL EXPERTS IS, THEREFORE, FIRST HAND OBSERVA-
TION TO EVALUATE IMPACT OF BLACK SIGATOKA ON BANANA PRODUC-
TION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF VARIOUS PESTICIDES IN CONTROLLING
BLACK SIGATOKA. AT SAME TIME, THE WHITTEMORE/SMITH

EVALUATION IS INDEPENDENT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF TOLERANCE
BY EPA ON PETITION SUBMITTED BY DIAMOND SHAMROCK COMPANY
WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS
INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION BY COMMERCIAL OR DAO PLANE
FOR DR. WHITTEMORE AND DR. SMITH TO OBSERVE CROPS IN
AFFECTED AREAS. EMBASSY IS ALSO REQUESTED TO MAKE
APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE
OFFICIALS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS. GIVEN VERY LIMITED
TIME AVAILABLE, AT EMBASSY DISCRETION OFFICIALS AND
TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN CAPITAL AND IN FIELD MIGHT BE
INVITED TO ACCOMPANY DR. WHITTEMORE AND DR. SMITH.;

4. FINALLY, DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE CABLE AFTER THE
VISIT REPORTING HOST GOVERNMENT AND, IF APPROPRIATE,
FRUIT COMPANY IMPRESSIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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